

Although the French Government has maintained total silence, both the Soviet and American detection systems as well as African sources in the region learned of two French nuclear tests in the Sahara during October: one, the first French underground test, of very low yield; the other, an "H-bomb trigger"—an A-bomb of about 80 kilotons (four times Hiroshima). The political conjunction stifled all protests, in spite of the Treaty of

Abroad

Moscow. Ben Bella doesn't want to provoke Paris into junking the Evian accords officially, and with them all economic aid. Moscow doesn't want to embarrass Ben Bella. King Hassan doesn't want to risk infuriating de Gaulle during Morocco's dispute with Algeria. Washington figures relations with Paris are bad enough already.

SAIGON

Shadow of Coming Events?

Three days after the coup, the Communist-manufactured National Liberation Front (FLN) proclaimed its program: 1) an end of "U.S. intervention"; 2) withdrawal of all U.S. personnel and military equipment; 3) an immediate end to the civil war; 4) formation of an "all-party government" dedicated to a policy of neutrality, "normalization" of relations with the North and reunification of the country. Simultaneously Ho Chi-minh—referring blandly to de Gaulle's comments of last August—announced his readiness for peace and for reunification as an "independent" and "neutral" nation.

MOSCOW

Trials Re-Tried?

An obscure article in a recent issue of *Izvestia* (Oct. 27) suggests a startling possibility. It was written by the retired Soviet diplomat and "old Bolshevik" Ivan Maisky in the form of a memorial on what would have been the 80th name-day of N. N. Krestinsky, whom Maisky, in the carefully chosen language of a veteran Communist, calls "a diplomat of the Leninist school." As of the moment, there is no higher praise. Krestinsky, one of Lenin's closest friends and colleagues, was Secretary of the Party's Central Committee for three years and held posts at the top level of the Foreign Affairs commissariat. After Lenin's death he was opposed to Stalin, and lined up first with Bukharin (Right Opposition) and then with Trotsky (Left Opposition). Along with Bukharin and Rykov, he was a defendant in the great purge trial of March 1938. Alone among all the defendants of all the public trials, on hearing the charge he suddenly replied—to the total consternation of Prosecutor Vishinsky and Presiding Judge Ulrich—"Not Guilty." Twenty-four hours later, after a night in the Lubianka, he returned to the prescribed script, confessed all that was asked, was duly convicted and shot. What makes Maisky's memorial

so piquant is the fact that it is the first public "rehabilitation" of a victim of one of the public trials. This may mean that the curtain over those dark and incredible episodes may now begin to be lifted.

PARIS

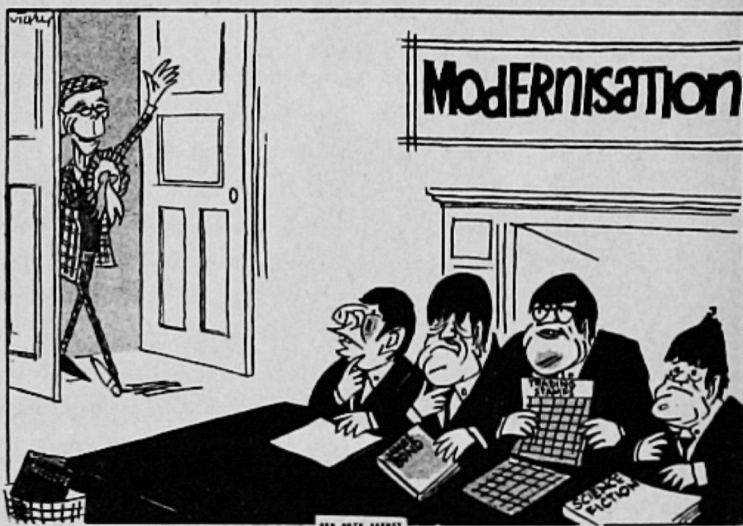
On the Eastern Horizon

The return of former Premier Edgar Faure from a secret mission to Peking completes a further step in the advancing rapprochement between France and Communist China. The political framework is established by common rejection of the Treaty of Moscow, resistance to the developing Moscow-Washington axis, and wish to liquidate the Vietnamese war. Franco-Chinese trade is rapidly expanding, and has quadrupled in the past two years. De Gaulle foresees multiplying trade and technical missions leading to an exchange of consuls, then to full diplomatic recognition of Communist China followed by UN membership. The Quai d'Orsay has been sounding out the British Foreign Office on this perspective, which Britain has long favored but has foregone at Washington's insistence.

TAIPEI

After Eighteen Years

On October 25 official ceremonies took note of the 18th anniversary of the formal shift of Taiwan from Japanese to Chinese sovereignty, after fifty years of Japanese occupation. Governor Huang Chieh reviewed the record of accomplishment. In this period since the Japanese left,



Vicky

London Evening Standard

Taiwan's agricultural production has expanded 3½ times; industrial production, 17 times; exports, 7 times. Local self-government, non-existent under Japanese rule, now extends throughout the island, with 98% of the elected local officials native-born Taiwanese. Three-fifths of the bureaucracy is now native-born as against 6% under Japan. Elementary education is today virtually universal (96.5%) and secondary schools have increased 500% in number, even more in enrollment. Thousands of Taiwanese are now studying in all fields at university and graduate levels. Under the Japanese occupation there were only 85 in all, 80 of them medical students, and none permitted to study political science, law or engineering. 86% of the peasants now own all or part of the land they till, as against 30% in 1945.

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